United Nations S/2007/694

Security Council

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Letter dated 30 November 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the local elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which are expected to be held in the latter half of 2008. On 11 October 2007, I addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council, in which I noted the progress in the preparation for these local elections and requested the Council to authorize the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to provide full support to the Congolese authorities in the conduct of these elections. The issue of the local elections was also addressed in my twenty-fourth report to the Council on MONUC (S/2007/671), submitted to the Council on 14 November 2007.

Several members of the Security Council have requested additional information concerning the cost and financial requirements for MONUC's support to the local elections. In this regard, please find attached the preliminary estimates for MONUC's support to these elections (see annexes I and II). I trust that this information will assist Member States in their consideration of this issue. I should be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annexes to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex I

Brief explanation for the additional preliminary and indicative requirements during the local elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Class 223: United Nations Volunteers

1. A total of $4.26 million is estimated for 28 United Nations Volunteers for the period from January to June 2008 and 138 Volunteers for the period from July through December 2008. Twenty-eight Volunteers will be required for an additional three-month period, up to the end of March 2009. The Volunteers will contribute to strengthening the Mission's capacity in the field before and during the elections.

Class 224: General temporary assistance

2. A total of $12.69 million is proposed for general temporary assistance, including a proposal for 58 international staff and 71 national staff, inclusive of 2 national officers, for the period from January through June 2008. In addition, the proposal includes 100 international staff and 179 national staff, inclusive of 2 national officers, for the period from July through December 2008. A gradual drawdown of staff will take effect from January to June 2009. The proposed staffing will include human rights and electoral officers as well as support staff who will be responsible for strengthening the Mission's capacity in the field before and during the elections. The requirement for the staff 10 months ahead of the elections is due to the severe lack of capacity within the Congolese electoral commission, due both to the enhanced complexity of the local elections as well as to significant loss of personnel since the 2006 elections. The registration will involve 200,000 candidates as opposed to 22,500 during the 2006 elections, and the candidates will be serving 6,037 constituencies as opposed to 385 during the 2006 elections. In addition, the counting of the votes will take place in 169 compilation centres as opposed to 62 during the 2006 elections.

Class 230: Facilities and infrastructure

3. A total of $1.1 million is proposed for facilities and infrastructure, mainly to cover for the cost of tents, refrigerator equipment, generators, accommodation equipment and office furniture. Stationery items and fuel for generators are also included in this estimate.

Class 231: Ground transportation

4. A total of $2.56 million is proposed for ground transportation, mainly for an additional 156 sedan vehicles and 262,080 litres of diesel, calculated at 8 litres per day for seven months.

Class 232: Air transportation

5. A total of $64.55 million is proposed for air transportation, mainly to cover the rental of operation, fuel and insurance for an additional 6 fixed-wing and 29 rotary-wing aircraft to be used for movement of electoral equipment, personnel and observers to the main hubs and electoral sites. The aircraft will be required for a total of 184 days.

Class 234: Communications

6. A total of $279 thousand is proposed for communications, mainly for an additional 200 items of telephone equipment and for commercial communications required during the election period.

Class 235: Information technology

7. A total of $112 thousand is proposed for information technology, mainly for an additional 50 laptops, including services and licenses required during the election period.

8. It should be noted that the above figures are preliminary and indicative in nature and will be subject to full review by the General Assembly in the context of the MONUC budget for the 2008/09 period if the Security Council authorizes the Mission to fully support the elections.

Annex II

United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Preliminary and indicative financial implications

Summary statement: Support for local elections 2008-2009[a]

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	Cost estimates Jan.-June 2008	*Cost estimates July 2008-June 2009*	*Total cost estimates*
Military observers	0	0	0
Military contingents	0	0	0
Civilian police	0	0	0
Formed police units	0	0	0
International staff	0	0	0
National staff	0	0	0
United Nations Volunteers	284	3 977	4 261
General temporary assistance	3 061	9 632	12 693
Government-provided personnel	0	0	0
Civilian electoral observers	0	0	0
Consultants	0	0	0
Official travel	0	0	0
Facilities and infrastructure	0	1 091	1 091
Ground transportation	0	2 564	2 564
Air transportation	0	64 549	64 549
Naval transportation	0	0	0
Communications	0	279	279
Information technology	0	112	112
Medical	0	0	0
Special equipment	0	0	0
Other supplies, services and equipment	0	0	0
Quick-impact projects	0	0	0
Gross total	**3 346**	**82 204**	**85 549**
Staff assessment income	**340**	**993**	**1 333**
Net total	**3 006**	**81 210**	**84 216**

[a] The above figures are preliminary and indicative in nature and would be subject to full review by the General Assembly in the context of the budget of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) for the 2008/09 period if the Security Council authorizes the Mission to support the elections.

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Letter dated 30 November 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to the exchange of letters between my predecessor and the President of the Security Council, dated 29 September 2006 (S/2006/778) and 17 October 2006 (S/2006/819), on the progress made by the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission and with respect to the continuation of the activities of the United Nations team supporting the work of the Mixed Commission, with funding from the regular budget. In the same spirit, by the present letter, I would like to inform you of the latest achievements and activities undertaken by the Mixed Commission as it continues to support and facilitate the peaceful implementation of the 12 October 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice on the Cameroon/Nigeria border dispute.

The mandate of the Mixed Commission includes supporting the demarcation of the land boundary and the maritime boundary, facilitating the withdrawal and transfer of authority along the boundary, addressing the situation of affected populations and making recommendations on confidence-building measures. With the final appropriation of $14,338,400 from the regular budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and the appropriation of $6,856,900 for 2007, the Mixed Commission has been able to move the process forward in a smooth and peaceful manner, and to promote dialogue and communication between the two countries. The following are some of the activities for which the United Nations support team has provided substantive, technical and logistical support to the Mixed Commission.

The four sections of the ruling of the International Court of Justice, comprising the withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Lake Chad area in December 2003, along the land boundary in July 2004, the agreement on the modalities of withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi peninsula in June 2006 and the delineation of the maritime boundary, agreed upon in May 2007, have been resolved. In addition, United Nations civilian observers have concluded that the prevailing situation concerning the rights of affected populations is satisfactory. Concerning the demarcation of the 1,950-kilometre land boundary, so far more than 700 kilometres have been demarcated. Around 900 kilometres of land boundary will be assessed before the end of 2007. Progress has also been achieved in the implementation of confidence-building measures. A transborder multinational highway project is being formulated. Initiatives on social amenities within the Lake Chad area are being promoted, and support for resource mobilization for the Lake Chad Basin Commission has been provided. Additional confidence-building projects to be submitted to partners for extrabudgetary funding and covering sections of the

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boundary in the Lake Chad area, the land boundary and the Bakassi peninsula, are being formulated.

The follow-up Committee established to monitor the implementation of the Greentree Agreement of 12 June 2006, concerning the modalities of withdrawal and transfer of authority in the Bakassi peninsula, has continued to hold regular meetings preceded by field visits to the peninsula. In 2007, the Committee held three meetings (19 March, 2-5 May and 25-27 July). To facilitate the monitoring of the prevailing situation in the Bakassi peninsula, the Mixed Commission opened an outstation in Calabar, Nigeria, in October 2007, which works in liaison with the office of the United Nations civilian observers team based in Yaoundé.

In 2008, the Mixed Commission will focus on accelerating the land demarcation exercise and on enhancing confidence-building activities. Regarding the demarcation exercise, the Mixed Commission expects to complete the field assessment of the land boundary by the end of 2008 and intends to contract the first phase of the pillar emplacement by the beginning of 2008. Other activities related to demarcation (quality assurance of geodetic stations, and the ground control points measurement) are expected to be contracted by the end of 2008. Furthermore, the Mixed Commission is fully committed to contributing to a consultative and transparent approach towards minimizing the impact of demarcation on the affected populations and preventing the occurrence of serious disputes. The use of a United Nations civilian observer team responds to the need to safeguard the rights of the affected populations.

In particular, consultations between the Chairman of the Mixed Commission and United Nations agencies in Cameroon have led to the formulation of a United Nations joint programme on humanitarian and development issues in support of affected populations in the boundary areas in Cameroon.

With regard to confidence-building measures, the Mixed Commission will, in 2008, continue to support efforts aimed at ensuring the security and welfare of the affected populations, as well as promoting initiatives in order to enhance trust between the two Governments and their peoples. Key areas identified for action by Governments and their partners entail assistance in food security, education, health, water and basic infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of the Mutengene-Abakiliki highway. The Mixed Commission further wishes to encourage environmental projects, as well as the revitalization of the Lake Chad Basin Commission.

Concerning the Bakassi peninsula, the transfer of authority in the Zone is expected to be completed by August 2008, in compliance with the terms of the Greentree Agreement of 12 June 2006. In addition, further to the conclusion in May 2007 of the implementation of the International Court of Justice judgment of 10 October 2002 concerning the maritime boundary between the two countries, the Mixed Commission will contribute to the reaching of an agreement on oil and gas fields straddling the maritime boundary between the two countries. The Mixed Commission plans to further contribute to determining the maritime tripoint between Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria.

I would like to recall that up to 2003, the Mixed Commission was funded entirely from extrabudgetary funds. During the period 2004-2007, the activities of the Mixed Commission were funded through the United Nations regular budget. The Governments of Austria, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and

Uruguay have provided in kind support for the substantive and technical work of the Mixed Commission, including military and legal experts. In addition, logistical support was provided by the Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria, while the two countries, as well as Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union made voluntary financial contributions to the trust fund for demarcation activities.

Given the cost-effective nature of this mission and the important tasks remaining at this juncture in the work of the Mixed Commission, and taking into account that the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria, at Greentree in June 2006, renewed once again their commitment to pursue the peaceful implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice and to work together to move the process forward until its completion, it is my intention to ask for additional resources from the regular budget for 2008 for the support team of the Mixed Commission to help advance the peaceful implementation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Identical letters dated 26 November 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations committed from 8 to 14 November 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 26 November 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 8 to 14 November 2007, inclusive

Air violations

On 8 November 2007:

- Between 1200 and 1255 hours, two Israeli warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh heading north, proceeded as far as Shikka, circled over the regions of Shikka, Beirut and the South, then left over Naqurah.
- Between 1300 and 1410 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh heading north, circled over the North, Beirut and the South, then left over Alma al-Sha`b.

On 9 November 2007, between 2300 and 2400 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Naqurah, circled over the sea off Beirut, then left over the sea off Naqurah.

On 10 November 2007, between 2132 and 2222 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over the sea off Beirut, then left over the sea off Naqurah.

On 12 November 2007:

- Between 0915 and 1030 hours, four Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Aytarun, circled over all areas of Lebanon, then left over the sea off Tripoli heading in the direction of Turkey.
- Between 1057 and 1110 hours, two Israeli enemy warplanes violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Alma al-Sha`b, proceeded as far as Damur, returned south over the sea, then left over the sea off Naqurah.
- Between 1700 and 1800 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew Ayn al-Tinah and Mashgharah.

On 13 November 2007:

- Between 0740 and 0830 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace and overflew the Baalbek area at very high altitude.
- Between 1719 and 1915 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering over Rumaysh heading north, circled over the areas of Beirut, the Shuf and the South, then left over Aytarun.
- Between 2030 and 2330 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft intermittently overflew the Bint Jubayl area.

On 14 November 2007:

- Between 0630 and 1120 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Jazzin, Bint Jubayl, Nabatiyah and Naqurah areas.
- Between 0700 and 0705 hours, Israeli enemy warplanes overflew the Zahrani area, and then, between 1000 and 1015 hours, overflew the Naqurah area.
- Between 0930 and 1600 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Hasbayya area.
- Between 1030 and 1200 hours, an Israeli enemy reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl and Tibnin areas.
- Between 1145 and 1230 hours, Israeli enemy military aircraft intermittently overflew the Tyre, Tibnin and Bint Jubayl areas.

Sea violations

None.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 9 November 2007 Israeli enemy forces opened fire on the brothers Khalid and Ali Al-Muhammad, because they were accused of carrying out a smuggling operation in the town of Al-Ghajar, wounded one of the brothers and then detained them. On 12 November 2007, the said forces detained the wife of Sa'id Kahmuz and her two children in that same town for reasons related to the same matter.

On 12 November 2007, between 1430 and 1600 hours, and again between 1640 and 1700 hours, Israeli enemy forces fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire from their position on Radar hill towards the area around the said position.

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Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic and the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to the request of the Security Council contained in the presidential statement dated 26 September 2001 (S/PRST/2001/25), in which the Council requested me to continue to keep it regularly informed of the situation in the Central African Republic and of the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA). The report covers the period from July to December 2007 and describes the situation in its political, security, socio-economic, humanitarian and human rights aspects.

II. Political situation

2. Since my previous report, dated 3 July 2007 (S/2007/376), the political situation has continued to be dominated by the intensification of preparations for an inclusive political dialogue that will address the current political crisis and rebel activities, especially in the north-western and north-eastern parts of the country. The major achievement so far has been the establishment of a 25-member preparatory committee to shepherd the process. The committee is comprised of representatives of all national stakeholders, including Government institutions represented by five members, opposition and pro-Government political parties represented by five members each, centrist political parties represented by two members, five civil society representatives and three representatives of armed groups. A series of consultations were carried out by various national and international actors, including BONUCA and the Organisation internationale de la francophonie, to promote consensus on some contentious issues relating to the preparatory committee.

3. Following the submission of the report of the Panel of the Wise in March 2007, which proposed the holding of an inclusive dialogue to resolve the political and military crises besetting the country, President François Bozizé has continued his broad-based consultations with all national stakeholders, including the Constitutional Court, the National Assembly and political parties, with a view to eliciting their views on the recommendations contained therein. He has also met with the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of

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Congo, Gabon, Uganda, the Sudan and Chad for consultations and an exchange of views on the situation in the Central African Republic and the wider subregion.

4. In his address to the nation on the occasion of the forty-seventh anniversary of the country's independence on 13 August 2007, President Bozizé reiterated that a preparatory committee would be established to define the framework, timeline, guidelines and objectives of the dialogue. He also appealed to all segments of society to participate in the dialogue in the interest of the restoration of peace and security in the Central African Republic. This appeal set the stage for the start of a direct exchange of views among all national stakeholders on the overall political, security and socio-economic situation in the country. On 2 October, President Bozizé endorsed the establishment of a dialogue preparatory committee and, on 8 October, he signed a decree establishing the committee.

5. Within the context of the proposed dialogue, BONUCA, in collaboration with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, organized from 22 to 24 August 2007 a consultative meeting on the issue. Following the meeting, the Centre organized follow-up consultations with stakeholders from 20 to 22 September 2007. Those meetings were critical in reaching consensus on key points, including the need for an all-inclusive process, guarantees by the authorities to implement the outcome of the process and the establishment of the preparatory committee.

6. To show his commitment to an inclusive dialogue, President Bozizé, speaking in the north-western town of Bocaranga on 6 November 2007, on the occasion of the activities commemorating World Food Day, asked for forgiveness from the people of Bocaranga for the wrongs inflicted on them since he came to power. He also extended an olive branch to the Popular Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD), urging it to join the inclusive political dialogue.

7. As part of efforts to pave the way for a dialogue, the Political Adviser to the President, who serves as the Government focal point for the dialogue and as Chairman of the Contact Group for Peace, Dieudonné Stanislas M'Bangot, has pursued consultations with all national political stakeholders, including armed groups in the western and north-western parts of the country. As a result, several armed elements, mainly from APRD, agreed to lay down their arms and to engage in peace talks. About 41 armed APRD elements have already been identified and encamped at the village of Paoua, 500 km north-west of Bangui, under the supervision of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA), pending their reintegration either into military or civilian life. However, recent meetings with APRD, held in September and October 2007 to persuade the group to nominate a representative to the preparatory committee, did not yield positive results.

8. In order to foster security in the country, presidential adviser M'Bangot has also pursued contacts with *Zaraguina* leaders (highway bandits) in their stronghold of Toumi in the north-western prefecture of Ouham-Pendé; the most recent such meeting was held on 30 October 2007. During that visit, the presidential adviser met with about 10 *Zaraguinas*, most of them Chadian, and reminded them of their earlier commitment not to resort to violence pending their cantonment and eventual repatriation to Chad. Discussions on the cantonment and eventual repatriation of some of the *Zaraguinas* who had already agreed to cease their activities are reportedly ongoing with the Chadian Embassy in Bangui. There is, however, an urgent need to accelerate this process to avoid a relapse to violence, as the *Zaraguinas* have warned that they were "running out of patience". At the same time,

the Government has pursued ongoing initiatives to secure the release of two key figures of the Assembly of the Union of Democratic Forces (UFDR) rebel group from detention in Benin and bring them onboard the political reconciliation process.

9. Meanwhile, consultations between the leaders of the Union of National Forces (UFVN), the coalition of opposition parties, and the Government continued through the intervention of presidential adviser M'Bangot facilitated by BONUCA and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. UFVN remains doubtful about the commitment of the Government to the proposed inclusive dialogue, and views some provisions of the initial presidential decree of 8 October establishing the dialogue preparatory committee as a clear vindication of their beliefs. It wants the venue, agenda and list of participants to be determined by the preparatory committee, as opposed to defining such aspects of the dialogue by a presidential decree.

10. BONUCA, together with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and other partners including OIF, has held a series of consultations with all the parties with a view to fostering the adoption of a consensual document on the establishment of the dialogue preparatory committee. In this context, it was agreed to work on a revised decree that would address the concerns of all parties, including the opposition, and foster consensus on the contentious issues. These meetings have not, however, dampened the scepticism of UFVN about the political will of the Government to engage in the dialogue. On 7 November 2007, UFVN produced a counter draft text of the revised decree, encapsulating its position on the key contentious issues.

11. In order to ensure that all stumbling blocks to the holding of the dialogue are promptly addressed, BONUCA and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue pursued consultations with all national stakeholders with a view to arriving at a consensus. To that end, my new Special Representative for the Central African Republic and Head of BONUCA, François Lonseny Fall, immediately upon formally assuming office on 11 October, held a series of meetings with the President of the Central African Republic and other key Government officials to exchange views on the current situation in the country with emphasis on preparations for the inclusive dialogue. He also met with key leaders of pro-Government and opposition parties. On 13 November, my Special Representative held another series of meetings with President Bozizé and other senior Government officials and with leaders of pro-Government and opposition parties to try to accelerate the process of adoption of a revised decree.

12. In the same vein, from 15 to 30 October, my Special Representative visited Geneva, Brussels and Paris to hold consultations with key partners. In Geneva, he met with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and discussed preparations for the dialogue and cooperation between BONUCA and the Centre in supporting the process. In Brussels, my Special Representative met with the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, Javier Solana, and in Paris he met with the French Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Bernard Kouchner, and other senior officials of the French Government.

13. On 30 October, my Special Representative represented me at the thirteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. In the margins of the summit, he held separate meetings with the Presidents of Congo, Gabon and the Central African Republic and with the Executive Secretary of ECCAS to discuss

the peace process in the Central African Republic and the need for subregional support in enhancing ongoing stabilization and peacebuilding efforts in that country. While attending the inter-ministerial meeting of countries of the Great Lakes region, held in Nairobi from 8 to 9 November, he discussed the situation in the Central African Republic and the need for broader regional support and assistance in promoting peace and reconciliation in the region.

III. Military and security situation

14. The security situation continues to be relatively stable in Bangui, despite continuing reports of criminal activities in parts of the capital, including break-ins and burglaries. It remains however volatile in the rest of the country. Since the signing of the Birao accord between the Government and the UFDR rebel movement in April 2007, the north-eastern part of the country remains relatively stable, with joint patrols by elements of UFDR and FACA. The killing of a UFDR element in Bria on 18 August 2007 by FACA and the presence of about 500 Sudanese Tora Bora rebels cantoned in the area, who initially requested protection from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) but refused to disarm, have nevertheless raised tensions. The Government of the Central African Republic is following up the matter.

15. Sporadic actions by the Democratic Front of Central African People (FDPC), UFDR and APRD continue in northern localities of Nana-Grébizi, Ouham, Ouham-Pendé and Nana-Mambéré prefectures. In the past few months, several other localities were the target of attacks involving hostage-taking by rebels and bandits. The most recent attacks occurred in August and October 2007 in the towns of Finikodro, Yaloké, Yangoro, Bouar and Koui de Gaule. In those same areas there are also regular skirmishes between APRD rebels and FACA, such as the attack on Bocaranga on 13 September 2007 by about 60 armed elements. The attack, which was repelled by FACA soldiers in the area, left nine assailants dead and one FACA soldier wounded.

16. While generalized acts of banditry by *Zaraguinas* (highway robbers) have continued in many areas of the country, they are much more frequent in localities around mining sites and cattle-rearing areas of the country. One such incident occurred in the south-western village of Nola on 3 September 2007, when soldiers killed seven highway robbers and confiscated a cache of weapons and ammunition. Meanwhile, the implementation on the ground of the Syrte and Birao peace agreements signed with FDPC and UFDR, respectively, in February and April 2007, continued to be stalled in spite of the appointment of the two rebel leaders, Abdoulaye Miskine of FDPC and Zakaria Damane of UFDR, as advisers to the President. Both leaders have yet to take up their posts.

17. As part of efforts to assist in the internal reorganization of FACA, BONUCA facilitated the organization of a workshop on the country's military code of justice in July 2007. Other capacity-building activity supported by BONUCA include the organization of four training courses for 70 personnel of FACA in various fields. This notwithstanding, FACA continues to grapple with logistic and organizational problems and poor civil-military relations.

18. BONUCA, through its Civilian Police Section, continued its assistance to the Central African Police and Gendarmerie to enhance their operational capacity

through training and mentoring, with the training of a total of 100 personnel from May 2007 to date. They include 40 new officers from the National Gendarmerie, 30 personnel from the Immigration Services and 30 personnel from the Police Traffic Division. BONUCA also continued to be closely involved in the restructuring of the Central African Police pursuant to the recommendations contained in the preliminary draft blueprint adopted at the end of the workshop held in Bangui from 22 to 25 May 2007.

19. At the bilateral level, it is worth noting that the growing military cooperation between the Central African Republic and South Africa, with the arrival of about 50 South African military personnel in August 2007 to provide logistic support and training for the country's Presidential Guard.

20. The subregional force, the Multinational Force of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (FOMUC), continues to discharge its military support functions following the extension of its mandate in July 2007. A joint technical assessment mission comprising the European Union, the Council of Europe and the African Union visited the Central African Republic from 8 to 15 November 2007 to discuss further extension and strengthening of the mandate of the subregional force. Furthermore, in a bid to stem the growing violence and insecurity in the north-western part of the country, FOMUC intends to establish a base in Paoua with support from the European Union. Plans are reportedly also afoot to strengthen the three existing contingents through the deployment of 120 soldiers from Cameroon. The thirteenth Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States also mandated its Committee of Ambassadors to study the possible transfer of operational responsibilities of the Force from the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) to ECCAS.

21. In the area of security sector reform, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with other partners, including Belgium, the European Union, France, the World Bank and BONUCA, also continued to provide support to the Government of the Central African Republic, especially to the preparatory committee for the National Seminar on Security Sector Reform, scheduled to be held during the first quarter of 2008.

22. On 9 July 2007, BONUCA, in collaboration with CEMAC, facilitated a meeting in Yaoundé of the Follow-up Committee of the tripartite process on transborder insecurity, which includes the Central African Republic, Cameroon and Chad. The meeting recommended, among other things, the expansion of the current tripartite mechanism to the three other CEMAC member States (Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon). The Department of Political Affairs is working with CEMAC member States to support this initiative by facilitating the organization of a CEMAC conference on transborder security early in 2008. Meanwhile, discussions on transborder security problems in Central Africa took place in Yaoundé in September 2007, in the margins of the twenty-sixth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. BONUCA participated in those deliberations at the request of the member States.

23. In October 2007, the Operational Commander of the European Force, General Patrick Nash, to be deployed in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic to address the spillover of the Darfur crisis, undertook a familiarization

mission to Chad and the Central African Republic. His discussions with the concerned parties focused on preparations and logistical arrangements for the deployment of the Force.

IV. Socio-economic and financial situation

24. The year 2007 was characterized by the consolidation of the improvement of macroeconomic gains registered in 2006. According to forecasts, the actual gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate is expected to reach 4.4 per cent, owing to a boost in economic activity linked to the gradual return of private investors to certain sectors of the economy, including the effects of construction and other infrastructural reconstruction projects funded largely by development partners.

25. Public finances are expected to improve significantly as the Government pursues the implementation of reforms within the framework of the poverty reduction and growth facility programme of the International Monetary Fund and the Development Policy Operation of the World Bank, which aims at streamlining public finances through enhanced revenue collection and expenditure control. In this regard, the authorities of the Central African Republic envisage an increase in fiscal recovery exceeding the target for this year of about 0.2 per cent of GDP. This will bring fiscal revenue to its highest level since 2002, amounting to 85 billion CFA.

26. Economic and financial prospects are also expected to benefit from continued donor support, which resulted, among other things, in the rescheduling of the debt of the Central African Republic by the members of the Paris Club in April 2007. Following the finalization of the poverty reduction strategy paper in July 2007 and the satisfactory performance level of implementation of the poverty reduction and growth facility programme achieved by August 2007, the Central African Republic reached a decision point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative in September 2007, and it should therefore benefit from a provisional reduction of its debt. These efforts, although laudable, are however still insufficient to stimulate real economic recovery and reduce the level of poverty in the country.

27. In this regard, the recent donors' round table, organized on 26 October 2007 by the Government of the Central African Republic with the support of the European Commission, the World Bank and UNDP, provided an opportunity for the development partners of the Central African Republic to make pledges to support the Government in the implementation of its poverty reduction strategy paper, which will serve as the basic framework for the donors' cooperation programming. During the round table, the Government made a number of pledges, particularly with regard to improvements in the areas of good governance, security and respect for human rights.

28. Increased international financial support is critical for the Central African Republic to attain its Millennium Development Goals and to address the multifaceted challenges that continue to impact negatively on the living con itions of its people. It should be noted in particular that the inability of the Government to settle the arrears of domestic debts, including unpaid salaries of public sector workers, has sparked relatively violent public demonstrations and prolonged strike actions by civil servants, pensioners and students. The climax of these events was the general workers' strike of 19 September 2007, which prompted the Government to deploy a robust security presence to deal with the situation. The strike was called

off following the settlement by the Government of salary arrears of two months and its promise to work out a plan for a final settlement.

V. Humanitarian situation and operational activities in support of development

29. The humanitarian situation in the north-eastern part of the country has stabilized, following the signing of a peace agreement between the Government and the UFDR rebel group in April 2007. Displaced persons continue to return to and resettle in their villages. The number of internally displaced persons in the north-eastern prefectures of Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran and Haute-Kotto now stands at around 45,000, as compared to the initial figure of 65,000. The expected deployment of the European Force in this region will contribute to the consolidation of stability.

30. At the same time, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate in the centre-north and north-west with an increase in population displacements in the Ouham-Pendé prefecture and continued violent conflict between the Government forces and APRD, particularly in the extreme north-west, in the Ngaoundaye region.

31. According to UNHCR, the number of refugees from the Central African Republic in Cameroon increased from 26,000 in August 2007 to 45,192 in October 2007. Overall, 318,000 Central African nationals have been forced to flee their homes since the end of 2005. At present, the number of internally displaced persons in the Central African Republic stands at 197,000, while 98,000 seek refuge in Cameroon, Chad and the Sudan. In a bid to cope with the needs of displaced persons in the north-west, humanitarian operations have intensified. In this respect, in October the United Nations system opened a common office in the town of Paoua to facilitate the delivery of relief assistance to the local civilian population in the area.

32. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has supported the implementation of emergency education projects in partnership with international non-governmental organizations and the Ministry of Education, which has enabled about 33,000 children affected by conflict in the northern and north-eastern parts of the country to return to school. UNICEF has also facilitated the demobilization of another 150 child soldiers from UFDR in north-eastern Central African Republic.

33. The funding of humanitarian assistance for the Central African Republic continues to face a severe deficit. As at 5 November 2007, only 59 per cent of the funds, i.e. close to $53 million out of the expected $85 million, pledged under the Consolidated Appeal Process for the Central African Republic had been redeemed. The process revolves around the following three strategic priorities: (a) the protection of civilian populations; (b) immediate emergency assistance to the victims of the conflict; and (c) the delivery of medium and long-term humanitarian assistance that also places a premium on local capacity-building.

34. During the period under review, the United Nations agencies supporting development efforts, pursued activities within the context of three areas of cooperation outlined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2004-2006 for the Central African Republic.

35. UNDP, in collaboration with BONUCA, has facilitated the organization of the national conferences on the justice and media systems, as well as the rehabilitation

of courts in the towns of Sibut and Bozum. It has also provided much needed logistic and material assistance for the effective functioning of democratic institutions such as the Parliament, the High Council for Communication, the Constitutional Court and the National Dialogue Monitoring Committee.

36. In the area of food security, in addition to the kits distributed during the 2007 rainy season, FAO has embarked on the implementation of a vegetable gardening programme under which 21,000 vulnerable households, including 6,000 infected with HIV/AIDS, would be provided with seeds and farming tools. In the same vein, FAO continued to provide assistance to the Central African Republic for the reactivation of its cotton industry.

37. In the area of maternal and child health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF have facilitated the introduction of new vaccines through funding under the GAVI initiative (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization). During the countrywide campaign organized by WHO and UNICEF in September 2007, 115,346 children ages 12 to 59 months and 10,942 pregnant women were de-wormed and 65,000 children ages 6 to 59 months received vitamin A supplements.

38. With regard to education, culture and communication, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has strengthened its support to the Central African Republic by opening an operational office in Bangui. It has also continued to support the strengthening of school programmes through the introduction of new curricula relating to HIV/AIDS, human rights, peace education and intercultural dialogue. UNESCO has also continued to provide assistance to the media through the establishment of a press house and the training of media professionals.

39. BONUCA, through its Public Information Section, continued sensitization campaigns to promote human rights and a culture of peace through radio programmes. It also organized training sessions on various topics dealing with peace issues, including civic education and good governance, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Communication, National Reconciliation, and Civic and Democratic Culture. In addition, BONUCA provided institutional capacity-building support to local media outlets, such as Radio Ndeke-Luka and Radio Notre-Dame, and supported the efforts of the National Dialogue Monitoring Committee and the National Students Association.

VI. Human rights situation

40. The human rights situation continues to be a source of concern, particularly in the north-western part of the country, around the border with Chad, where skirmishes between Government troops, rebels and highway bandits have engendered a serious humanitarian crisis.

41. There is a deepening perception that the Central African Republic faces a serious culture of impunity, particularly for alleged abuses and violations committed by the national security forces, including torture, arbitrary arrests, summary executions, the destruction of entire villages, forced displacement and rape. After rebel attacks, national security forces frequently carry out disproportionate acts of reprisal targeting particularly groups of populations considered to be hostile to the

Government. It should be noted, however, that the President of the Central African Republic has given signs of trying to put a halt to this trend by recently dismissing 34 military officers and soldiers accused of involvement in such violations. However, in a bid to effectively fight against impunity, it is important that such administrative sanctions be accompanied by penal sanctions, in accordance with the legal process.

42. The civilian population continues to be the main victim of continuing insecurity in some parts of the country, which impacts negatively on the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms, including access to basic services such as shelter, food, health care and education. It was against this backdrop that the International Criminal Court announced in May 2007 the opening of an investigation in the Central African Republic, focusing on crimes allegedly committed in 2002 and 2003, and the continuous monitoring of the situation in the country. On 18 October 2007, the Court opened its office in Bangui. The attendance of the inauguration ceremony by the Head of State of the Central African Republic constitutes a significant milestone in the fight against impunity.

43. Another significant development was the convening of the national review of the justice system in the Central African Republic from 16 to 20 October 2007, which was supported by BONUCA and the European Union. The event brought together over 400 delegates, including magistrates, court officials, representatives of civil society and national human rights non-governmental organizations. The expected outcome is the modernization of the national justice system and its enhanced functioning. However, the national review was boycotted by the lawyers as a sign of protest for not being involved in its organization.

44. BONUCA is working closely with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to protect the rights of HIV/AIDS-infected persons, placing special emphasis on fighting the stigmatization of HIV/AIDS-infected persons. UNAIDS intends to encourage other United Nations agencies to establish HIV/AIDS sectoral programmes.

45. During the reporting period, BONUCA, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, carried out gender mainstreaming activities throughout the Office. BONUCA also supported the efforts of the Government and women's non-governmental organizations to promote equality and equity between men and women in the Central African Republic, mainly through capacity-building and advocacy activities, in compliance with the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The aim is to enhance the participation of women in decision-making with special focus on the forthcoming inclusive political dialogue, fight sexual and gender-based violence and promote the rights of women.

VII. Observations

46. The overall political, security and socio-economic situation in the Central African Republic remains fragile. The challenges the country faces are compounded by persisting mistrust among political actors, widespread poverty, continuing insecurity in parts of the country, serious human rights violations characterized in particular by attacks against civilians, rape and other forms of gender-based violence, a culture of impunity and widespread humanitarian challenges. In this regard, I welcome the fact that since August 2007 the Government of the Central

African Republic has undertaken concrete actions with a view to controlling excesses committed by elements of the security forces.

47. I strongly encourage the authorities of the Central African Republic and other national political stakeholders, including civil society, to put an end to their differences and engage without further delay in the proposed inclusive political dialogue to end the cycle of political instability and violence in the country. The United Nations remains committed to supporting the process. I also appeal to all the armed groups, especially those that have signed peace agreements with the Government, to lay down their arms and work towards the restoration of sustainable peace and stability in the Central African Republic through a comprehensive and inclusive dialogue. Peace is a prerequisite for addressing the daunting socio-economic problems besetting the country. I hope that the year 2008 will usher in a new era of an all-inclusive political dialogue in the interest of all the people of the Central African Republic.

48. I further appeal to all the parties to scrupulously abide by the principles and rules of international law governing the conduct of hostilities. I also encourage the Central African Republic authorities to adopt more effective policies to deal with the issue of impunity.

49. Access by humanitarian workers to affected populations is critical in dealing with the humanitarian challenges facing the Central African Republic, especially in the conflict-ridden areas. While commending the humanitarian agencies for their noble work, especially under very difficult circumstances, I strongly urge all parties to the crisis to ensure unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to affected populations and to ensure adequate protection for humanitarian personnel.

50. Recent encouraging prospects in ongoing stabilization and socio-economic efforts, particularly the outcome of the Brussels Round Table, can only be sustained through the demonstration of the requisite political will by all national stakeholders with continued international support, in a climate of peace. The United Nations will continue to support the Government and the people of the Central African Republic in its efforts to achieve lasting peace and to mobilize international assistance. However, the primary responsibility for improving conditions in the country rests with the Government and the people of the Central African Republic. I therefore encourage the Central African authorities to vigorously pursue ongoing measures to streamline the management of public finances and ensure greater transparency and accountability in the collection of revenue, management and utilization of public resources. In this respect, it is important to continue to strengthen the rule of law and promote good governance through the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as dealing decisively with impunity. Strict adherence by all parties to the relevant provisions of international instruments governing the conduct of hostilities and the prompt implementation of the outcome of the national conference on the review of the country's justice system will be major steps in this direction.

51. I welcome the proposal to extend and strengthen the mandate of FOMUC. I again commend the African Union and the European Union for their important political and financial support to FOMUC, and appeal to them and the international community as a whole for continued and increased support to enable FOMUC to expand its security assistance projects throughout the country.

52. I also welcome the intensive efforts being made towards the deployment of a European multinational force under Security Council resolution 1778 (2007) in eastern Chad and north-eastern Central African Republic to protect civilian populations, particularly refugees and displaced persons, and hope that it would contribute to reducing tensions and to ensuring security in the region.

53. In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the international community, including States and institutions, for their continued support to the Government of the Central African Republic, especially in the development and security sectors. I would also like to commend my new Special Representative in the Central African Republic, François Lonseny Fall, and his staff, as well as other members of the United Nations country team as a whole, for their commitment and dedication in fulfilling their vital duties, often in dangerous conditions. In the same vein, I pay tribute to my former Special Representative, Général Lamine Cissé, for his contribution to fostering lasting peace in the Central African Republic.

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (for the period from 7 June to 31 December 2007)

I. Introduction

1. The present report gives an account of the activities of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) during the past six months pursuant to the mandate contained in Security Council resolution 350 (1974) and extended in subsequent resolutions, most recently resolution 1759 (2007) of 20 June 2007.

II. Situation in the area and activities of the Force

2. During the period under review the ceasefire in the Israel-Syria sector was maintained and the UNDOF area of operation remained generally quiet. UNDOF supervised the area of separation by means of fixed positions and patrols to ensure that military forces of either party were excluded from it. The Force also carried out fortnightly inspections of equipment and Force levels in the areas of limitation. Liaison officers from the party concerned accompanied the inspection teams. During the period under review, a significant increase in Israel Defense Forces (IDF) training activities was observed on the Alpha side. As in the past, both sides denied inspection teams access to some of their positions and imposed restrictions on the Force's freedom of movement; IDF imposed additional restrictions during its training exercises. During the same period, both sides constructed new, and renovated existing, defensive positions in the respective areas of limitation. UNDOF adjusted its monitoring activities, adopting a more flexible monitoring and patrolling posture, and increased its observation, mobile and night operational activities. The Mission also reinforced its liaison with the parties in order to help maintain stability in its area of operation. Israeli national customs officials continue to operate periodically at the IDF post at the UNDOF crossing gate between the Israeli-occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

3. The Force continued to assist the International Committee of the Red Cross with the passage of persons through the area of separation. During the past six months, UNDOF assisted in the crossing of 637 students, 500 pilgrims, five civilians and one bride. UNDOF also provided health services to 243 villagers in the area of separation, and medical treatment to 116 civilians.

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4. In the area of operation, especially in the area of separation, mines continued to pose a threat to UNDOF personnel and local inhabitants. Owing to the long-term presence of the mines and the deterioration of their detonation systems, this threat has increased. UNDOF continued to carry out operational mine clearance. It remained available to support the United Nations Children's Fund in activities to promote mine awareness among the civilian population.

5. The Force Commander and his staff maintained close contact with the military authorities of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. Both sides generally cooperated with the Force in the execution of its tasks.

6. As at 1 November 2007, UNDOF comprised 1,043 troops, from Austria (372), Canada (2), India (191), Japan (30), Poland (353) and Slovakia (95). A total of 15 personnel were employed by Japan as a national support element. In addition, 75 military observers from the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) assisted the Force in carrying out its tasks.

III. Financial aspects

7. By its resolution 61/287 of 29 June 2007, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $39.6 million, equivalent to $3.3 million per month, for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 December 2007, as recommended in paragraph 12 below, the cost of maintaining the Force would be limited to the monthly amounts approved by the General Assembly.

8. As at 31 August 2007, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNDOF Special Account for the period from the inception of the Force amounted to $24.0 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at the same date amounted to $2.5 billion. As at 31 October 2007, amounts owed to troop contributors for UNDOF totalled $2.0 million. Troop and contingent-owned equipment costs have been reimbursed for the periods up to 31 August and 30 June 2007, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IV. Implementation of Security Council resolution 338 (1973)

9. The Security Council, when deciding in its resolution 1759 (2007) to renew the mandate of UNDOF for a further period of six months, until 31 December 2007, also called upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973), and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of the period, a report on developments in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution. The search for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, in particular the efforts undertaken at various levels to implement resolution 338 (1973), was addressed in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Middle East (A/62/327), submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 61/26 and 61/27.

V. Observations

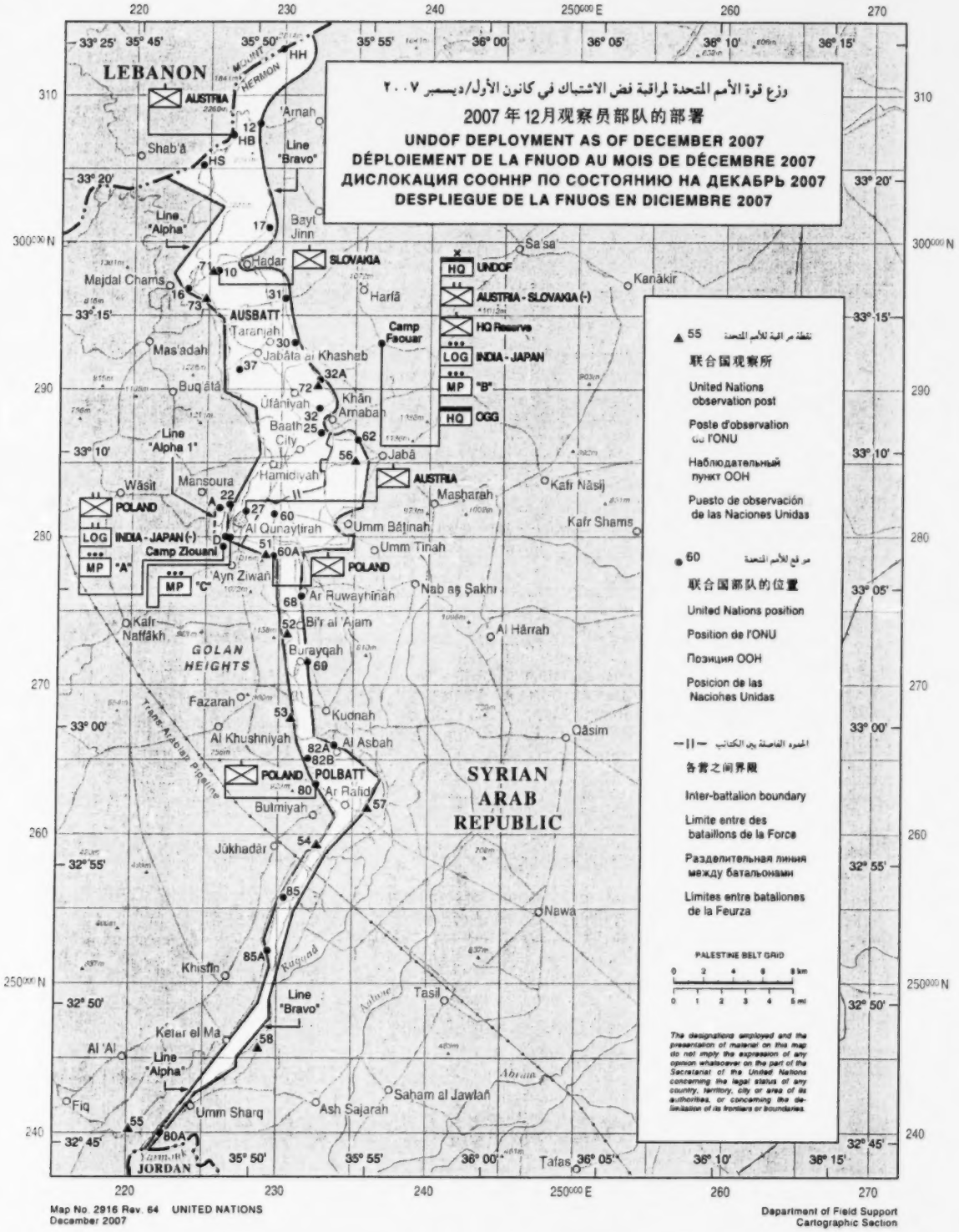
10. The situation in the Israel-Syria sector has remained generally quiet. UNDOF, which was established in May 1974 to supervise the ceasefire called for by the Security Council and the agreement on disengagement between Syrian and Israeli forces of 31 May 1974, has continued to perform its function effectively, with the cooperation of the parties.

11. Nevertheless, the situation in the Middle East is tense and is likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem can be reached. I hope that determined efforts will be made by all concerned to tackle the problem in all its aspects, with a view to arriving at a just and durable peace settlement, as called for by the Security Council in its resolution 338 (1973).

12. Under the prevailing circumstances, I consider the continued presence of UNDOF in the area to be essential. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 30 June 2008. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has given its assent to the proposed extension. The Government of Israel has also expressed its agreement.

13. In making this recommendation, I must draw attention to the shortfall in the funding of the Force. The unpaid assessment amounted to some $24.0 million as at 31 August 2007. The sum represents money owed to the Member States that contribute the troops who make up the Force.

14. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to Major General Wolfgang Jilke and to the men and women serving with UNDOF and UNTSO. They have performed with efficiency and devotion to duty the important tasks assigned to them by the Security Council. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Governments contributing troops to UNDOF, and to those that provide the UNTSO military observers assigned to the Force.


وزع قوة الأمم المتحدة لمراقبة فض الاشتباك في كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٧
2007 年 12月观察员部队的部署
UNDOF DEPLOYMENT AS OF DECEMBER 2007
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA FNUOD AU MOIS DE DÉCEMBRE 2007
ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ СООННР ПО СОСТОЯНИЮ НА ДЕКАБРЬ 2007
DESPLIEGUE DE LA FNUOS EN DICIEMBRE 2007
LEBANON
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
JORDAN
GOLAN HEIGHTS
AUSTRIA
SLOVAKIA
AUSBATT
POLBATT
POLAND
INDIA - JAPAN
HQ UNDOF
AUSTRIA - SLOVAKIA (-)
HQ Reserve
INDIA - JAPAN
MP "B"
HQ OGG
Camp Faouar
Camp Ziouani
MP "A"
MP "C"
LOG INDIA - JAPAN (-)
Line "Alpha"
Line "Alpha 1"
Line "Bravo"
Trans-Arabian Pipeline
Hadar
Majdal Shams
Shab'ā
'Arnah
Bayt Jinn
Harfā
Sa'sa'
Kanākir
Mas'adah
Buq'ātā
Jabāta al Khashab
Khān Arnabah
Ufāniyah
Baath City
Jabā
Hamidiyah
Mansoura
Wāsit
Masharah
Kafr Nāsij
Kafr Shams
Al Qunaytirah
Umm Bāṭinah
Umm Tīnah
'Ayn Ziwān
Ar Ruwayhinah
Nab aṣ Ṣakhr
Kafr Naffākh
Bi'r al 'Ajam
Al Hārrah
Burayqah
Fazarah
Kudnah
Qāsim
Al Khushniyah
Al Asbah
Ar Rafid
Butmiyah
Jūkhadār
Nawā
Khisfīn
Tasil
Ketef el Ma
Al 'Al
Fiq
Umm Sharq
Ash Sajarah
Saham al Jawlān
Tafas
PALESTINE BELT GRID
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